

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE**

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES</b> (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	<b>FY 2014-15</b>		<b>FY 2015-16</b>	
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS		(0-51,000)		(0-51,000)
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		(0-51,000)		(0-51,000)

**Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.**

LB 671 would repeal the statutory authorization for the Game and Parks Commission to hold a mountain lion hunting season and also eliminates the limited permit currently allowed to be issued to farmers and ranchers to kill mountain lions preying on livestock or poultry.

The first and only hunting season for mountain lions was initiated in 2014. The Commission has indicated that revenue received from the application fee and the permit auction proceeds totaled just over \$31,000 as of January 17<sup>th</sup>. Since the season is still open for the remainder of the year in the Prairie Unit they anticipate another \$20,000 of application fee revenue may be realized before the season is over, giving a total of \$51,000 of revenue related to the mountain lion hunting season. This revenue is deposited into the State Game Fund.

Based on this limited experience, due to this being the first season, there is a potential annual revenue loss of \$51,000 from the elimination of the authority to hold a mountain lion hunting season. Whether or not a hunting season is implemented each year is up to the Commission based on their opinion of whether the mountain lion population is large enough to allow hunting. Since it is not a given that a season will be held each year the revenue loss is estimated to range from \$0 to \$51,000.

With the elimination of the hunting season and the limited permit the Commission anticipates an increase in requests for them to address mountain lion related issues. Any related increase in workload can be absorbed by the Commission's current staffing and budget.

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES-STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY &amp; POLT. SUB. RESPONSES</b>			
LB: 671	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Game & Parks Commission	
REVIEWED BY: Cindy Miserez		DATE: 01/23/2014	PHONE: 402-471-4174
COMMENTS: The Nebraska Game & Parks Commission's statement of fiscal impact for LB671 appears to be reasonable.			

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

**2014**

**LB<sup>(1)</sup> 671**

**FISCAL NOTE**

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup>

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Patrick H. Cole

Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 1/13/2013

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**ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION**

	<u>FY 2014-15</u>		<u>FY 2015-16</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	Est (50,000)	_____	Est (50,000)
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>_____</u>	<u>Est (50,000)</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>Est (50,000)</u>

**Explanation of Estimate:**

The proposed legislation would eliminate provisions related to hunting mountain lions. In addition to eliminating the licensed hunting provisions, it would also eliminate an individual's ability to kill a mountain lion in defense of one's person or property.

Regulated hunting seasons are among the tools the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission uses to manage game species in Nebraska. Through January 17, 2014, just over \$31,000 in application/license fees and auction proceeds had been raised under the current 2014 Mountain Lion hunting season. Since one of the hunt units (Prairie Unit) is open year round for application/licensing and has unlimited permit authorization, additional sales are expected. For fiscal note purposes, it is anticipated that an additional \$20,000 in revenue could be generated. While future seasons will be based on year-specific management objectives and thus could vary from the current 2014 season, for purposes of this fiscal note, it will be assumed that similar revenue generation could be anticipated. Passage of this legislation could thus result in a loss of approximately \$50,000 annually.

An increase in costs would be anticipated related to an expected increase in response needs associated with mountain lion issues with the elimination of the management tools currently available (i.e. hunting regulation and individual response capabilities). Additionally, since the Commission's management responsibilities for mountain lions would remain, costs for monitoring population levels would continue, albeit at the expense of other game fund revenue sources. Costs are not readily determinable and would likely merely result in a reprioritization of other duties.

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
	<u>14-15</u>	<u>15-16</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>